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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 123145 TOSEC 130005

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TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT PRIORITY
INFO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123145 TOSEC 130005

EXDIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM BEIRUT DTD 19 MAY 1976 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4436

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM MELOY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LE
SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON SARKIS' EVALUATION OF LOCAL SITUATION

REF: BEIRUT 4432

1. LEARNING SARKIS' VIEWS ON LOCAL SITUATION HAS BEEN A BIG HELP. I SHARE HIS THINKING THAT SOME SLIGHT CHANCE REMAINS OF A POLITICAL SOLUTION, AND CAN ONLY HOPE THAT HE IS RIGHT WHEN HE SAYS THAT ALL PARTIES WANT TO STOP THE FIGHTING.

2. THE SCENARIO FOR GETTING FRANGIE TO RESIGN SEEMS WORTHWHILE PURSUING EVEN IF THE CHANCES ARE SLIM. AS SARKIS SAYS, IF THERE IS ONLY SLIGHT HOPE WITH FRANGIE OUT OF OFFICE, THERE IS NO HOPE WITH HIM

IN. WITH YOUR CONCURRENCE, THEREFORE, WE SHALL FOLLOW UP ON THIS
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MATTER. (I ANTICIPATE LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN GETTING KARAME TO FULFILL

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HIS PART.)

3. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE CHRISTIANS NEED SOME HANDHOLDING. WITHOUT IT, THEY ARE FREIGHTENED INTO HARD POSITION. A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THIS

WAS THE RECENT VISIT OF JALLUD. NOTHING COULD BE BETTER DESIGNED TO FRIGHTEN THEM THAN TO HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE OF QUADDAFFI COME TO LEBANON. THE CHRISTIANS REACTED ACCORDING TO FORM AND IMMEDIATELY RALLIED AROUND THE PRESIDENT AS THE SYMBOL OF "MARONITISM." AS PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES PREVENT MY DOING THE HANDHOLDING MYSELF, I PLAN TO SEND WARING OVER THE WEEKEND TO JOUNIE IN ORDER TO TALK WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN LEADERS. THROUGH THESE REPRESENTATIVES, HE WILL CONVEY MY GREETINGS TO THESE LEADERS, INCLUDING FRANGIE, AND TACKLE THE CREDENTIALS ISSUE HEAD ON BY NOTING THAT I AM RELUCTANT TO APPEAR TO INVOLVE MYSELF IN AN INTERNAL CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE STILL IN TRAIN. I AM THEREFORE AWAITING

THE OUTCOME.

4. HE WILL ALSO REITERATE OUT INTEREST IN THE WELFARE OF THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, AND STRESS THE FUTILITY OF A MILITARY SOLUTION, ARGUING ONCE MORE IN FAVOR OF A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT BASED ON MODERATION, CONCILIATION AND COMPROMISE. HE WILL ALLUDE TO THE CONDITIONS BEST SUITED TO FOSTER A POLITICAL SOLUTION AND THEREBY ATTEMPTED TO GET THINKING TURNED TOWARD THE ADVANTAGES OF AN EARLY RESIGNATION.
MELOY UNQTE
ROBINSON

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